

TO

Re

th

sa

su

int

Ca

pe

ing

it

im

wo

ga

ma

for

de

ing

ad

Pe

the

fac

and

pe

fiel

in

He

vin

1887

6a.

CIRCULAR.

TO BE READ BY THE PASTOR TO THE FAITHFUL.

REV. AND DEAR FATHER,—

The whole Christian world is preparing to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Holy Father. It is safe to say that no event in modern history has called forth such universal enthusiasm, or evoked so widespread an interest. Not the people of one Empire only, not Catholic Nations alone, but from the East and West, peoples and Rulers of various forms of belief are taking part in this celebration. To the one who reflects, it is an invincible proof, not only of the living power, importance and influence of the Pope in the modern world, but likewise a testimony, which no sophistry can gainsay, to the supernatural institution of the Church.

In the blindness of self-sufficient pride, and in the materialism of thought begotten of the material comforts of the age, many imagined the Catholic Church a dead issue of the past, or at most, a feeble body hastening to dissolution, like the sects around, before the advance of "modern thought." But now we have the Pope, the acknowledged head of cultivated thought, the arbiter of National disputes, the most powerful factor in conserving the best interests of human society; and the Catholic Church everywhere extending her peaceful conquests, and, as ever, the pioneer in all fresh fields of human knowledge. These patent facts, taken in conjunction with the universal homage offered to the Holy Father on the occasion of his Jubilee, must convince any man of good will that there is something

more
eith
of s
from
mass
a fee
for s
the
gifts
respe
of Na
he is
on e
shoul

W
fellow
Supre
be ab
fruit
Poun
togeth
rever
good
Dioc
celebr
inviti
of Th
a Ben
short

DEC.

more than human in the life of the Church. Who else, either now, or in ages past, could have been the object of such genuine respect, such spontaneous devotion, from so many and such widely differing classes and masses? None other than a Pope. And this Pope is a feeble old man, practically a prisoner, and dependent for support on the charity of us, his children. And yet the whole world is taking part in honouring him with gifts the most costly and precious, with messages of respect and love, with special Embassies sent by Rulers of Nations, Protestant as well as Catholic. But, unless he is what we believe him to be, the Vicar of Christ on earth, it would be impossible that these things should be verified.

We, in this Diocese, are not, certainly, behind our fellow-Catholics of other parts, in our devotion to the Supreme Pastor of souls on earth. It is a pleasure to be able to inform you that we have forwarded, as the fruit of the collection in the Diocese, Four Hundred Pounds Sterling to the Holy Father, as your offering, together with the expressions of love, veneration and reverence, which we all entertain. Many prayers and good works have been likewise offered up in the Diocese for him; and we direct that his Jubilee be celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 1st, in all the Churches, by inviting the Faithful to offer Communion and Prayers of Thanksgiving on that day; and, where possible, by a Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament, with a short discourse appropriate to the occasion.

✦ C. O'BRIEN,

Archbishop of Halifax.

DEC. 15TH, 1887.